the Unstarred Question 2569 and 2348 given in Rajya Sabha on the 19.3.97 and on 13.8.97 respectively and state:

(a) whether waiting list of telephone connections for General Category Registrants in Rourkela, Orissa, has since been cleared as per repeated assertion by Government that it would be done latest by October, 1997;

(b) if not, the reasons for the prcsis-tent delay in installing the said telephone connections;

(c) whether Government have not taken any steps to expedite availability of the required equipments continuously cited as the reason for non-clearance of the waiting list;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the negligent officials so as to enforce better customer response and accountability in Rourkela; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) No, Sir. There arc two ex-changes one is E-108 at Plant Area and the waiting list is cleared upto Sep-tember, 1997. The other is RLU at Town-Ship and the waiting list is cleared upto July 96. The new telephone connection against application No. A-2782 promised to be installed by the end of October, 97 has been provided with indicator RKL-541398 on 11.11.97.

(b) The expansion work of Township RLU exchange from 6000 lines to 7000 lines is under progress.

(c) No, Sir. Continuous efforts arc being made for the expansion of 1000 lines RLU at Township. Installation of another RLU exchange at Kocl Nagar, Township is also in progress.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since work is in progress as stated at (c), no action is warranted.

Permission to set-up video Conference Facilities by VSNL

3. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission of VSNL in necessary to set up Video conference facilities; if so, what is the license fee;

(b) the number of lincenses issued by VSNL for Video conference so far, State-wise; and

(c) the names and addresses of companies having Video conferencing facilities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA) (a) and (b) No Sir. For provision of Video Conferencing as a commercial service, licence from Department of Telecommunications is required. Only one Letter of Intent has been issued for this service so far. The lincensc fee has not been finalised as yet. (c) Does not arise, inview of (a) & (b) above.

Criteria for issuing O.B. to the subscribers

4. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 2347 given in Rajya Sabha on the 13.8.97 and state:

(a) the criteria to handover O.B. to the subscribers;

(b) the number of O.B. released and handed over to the subscribers as on 1.7.97 under Janpath Telephone Exchange;

(c) whether it is a fact that OBs arc not handed over to the subscribers as on due date;

(d) whether O.B. has been released and handed over to the subscriber of Rcgd. No. OA 13001522 dated 29.4.97;

(c) if so, the date of OB released and handed over to the subscriber;